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WASHINGTON, MARCH 20, REUTER - ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER, NEW HEAD OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS, SAID TODAY THE SOVIET UNION IS TRYING TO DOMINATE AMERICA MILITARILY SO IT CAN EXERT POLITICAL LEVERAGE IN THE WORLD.

ADMIRAL TURNER, WHO TOOK OVER JUST 10 DAYS AGO AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND OVERALL INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS, REVEALED LITTLE IN HIS FIRST QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH THE PRESS ON CBS'S "FACE THE NATION."

THE FORMER NAVAL ACADEMY CLASSMATE OF PRESIDENT CARTER SAID THE SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP WAS AIMED AT MAKING UP FOR WHAT HE CLAIMED WERE SHORTCOMINGS IN IDEOLOGY, TECHNOLOGY AND ITS ECONOMY.

"THEY HOPE THAT THIS POWER OF MILITARY FORCES CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO POLITICAL OPPORTUNITY, TO POLITICAL LEVERAGE ON THE REST OF THE WORLD," HE SAID.

THE INTELLIGENCE CHIEF SAID THE SOVIET UNION THINKS "IN 19TH CENTURY POWER TERMS" AND WANTED TO COMPENSATE FOR ITS FAILURES IN OTHER AREAS WITH A STRONG MILITARY.

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ON OTHER SUBJECTS, ADMIRAL TURNER DEFENDED THE RECENTLY DISCLOSED SECRET PAYMENTS TO A NUMBER OF FOREIGN LEADERS OVER THE YEARS WITHOUT CONFIRMING ANY OF THE NEWS ACCOUNTS THAT SAID MONEY WAS GIVEN TO SUCH HEADS OF STATE AS JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN.

HE DESCRIBED THE PAYMENTS AS "SECRET FOREIGN AID" TO

(over)

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SUPPORT U.S. FRIENDS AS OPPOSED TO SIMPLE BRIBERY AND SAID THE
AMOUNT OF MONEY INVOLVED WAS AN "INFINTESIMALLY" SMALL PART OF
OVERALL AMERICAN FOREIGN AID IN THE PAST.

ADMIRAL TURNER SAID THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONSIDER WAYS TO
BETTER KEEP ITS SECRETS; INCLUDING POSSIBLE CIVIL AND CRIMINAL
SANCTIONS AGAINST THOSE WHO LEAK CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE
INFORMATION TO THE PRESS.

WHILE HE SAID HE DID NOT SUPPORT ADOPTING A BRITISH STYLE
OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT THAT WOULD PUNISH ANYONE PUBLISHING
INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION; HE WOULD CONSIDER SHARPLY LIMITING
THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH ACCESS TO TOP-SECRET INFORMATION AND
USING ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL SANCTIONS AGAINST THOSE CAUGHT
PASSING IT ON TO THE PUBLIC.‡

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ASKED ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT MARIEN NGOUBAZI
OF THE CONGO YESTERDAY; ADMIRAL TURNER SAID IT WAS "A TYPICAL
INTERNAL PROBLEM" AND THAT IT WAS "NOT NECESSARILY AN EXTERNAL
GROUP" BEHIND THE KILLING. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

HE WAS ALSO ASKED IF THE CIA HAD ANY INFORMATION ON WHETHER
CUBAN TROOPS WERE PART OF THE INVADING FORCE IN SOUTHERN ZAIRE.
HE SAID THE CIA HAS "A GOOD IDEA ABOUT THAT" AND THAT IT WAS
CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE BUT HE DID NOT GIVE A
SPECIFIC ANSWER.

ADMIRAL TURNER ALSO SAID "THERE ARE NO AMERICAN REPORTERS
OF ANY KIND ON THE PAYROLL" OF THE CIA. HE WAS NOT ASKED; NOR
DID HE VOLUNTEER; WHETHER THERE WERE ANY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS
RECEIVING CIA PAYMENTS.

DISCLOSURE BY CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS LAST YEAR THAT
THE CIA HAD PLANTED STORIES AND PAID JOURNALISTS CAUSED A
FLURRY OF CONTROVERSY.‡

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